Jim Henson's™
LABYRINTH™
NO. 9
CORONATION
Spurrier
Ferrier
Bayliss
Flores
Lafuente
ARCHAIA™

Jim Henson's™ LABYRINTH™ CORONATION

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ARCHAIA™

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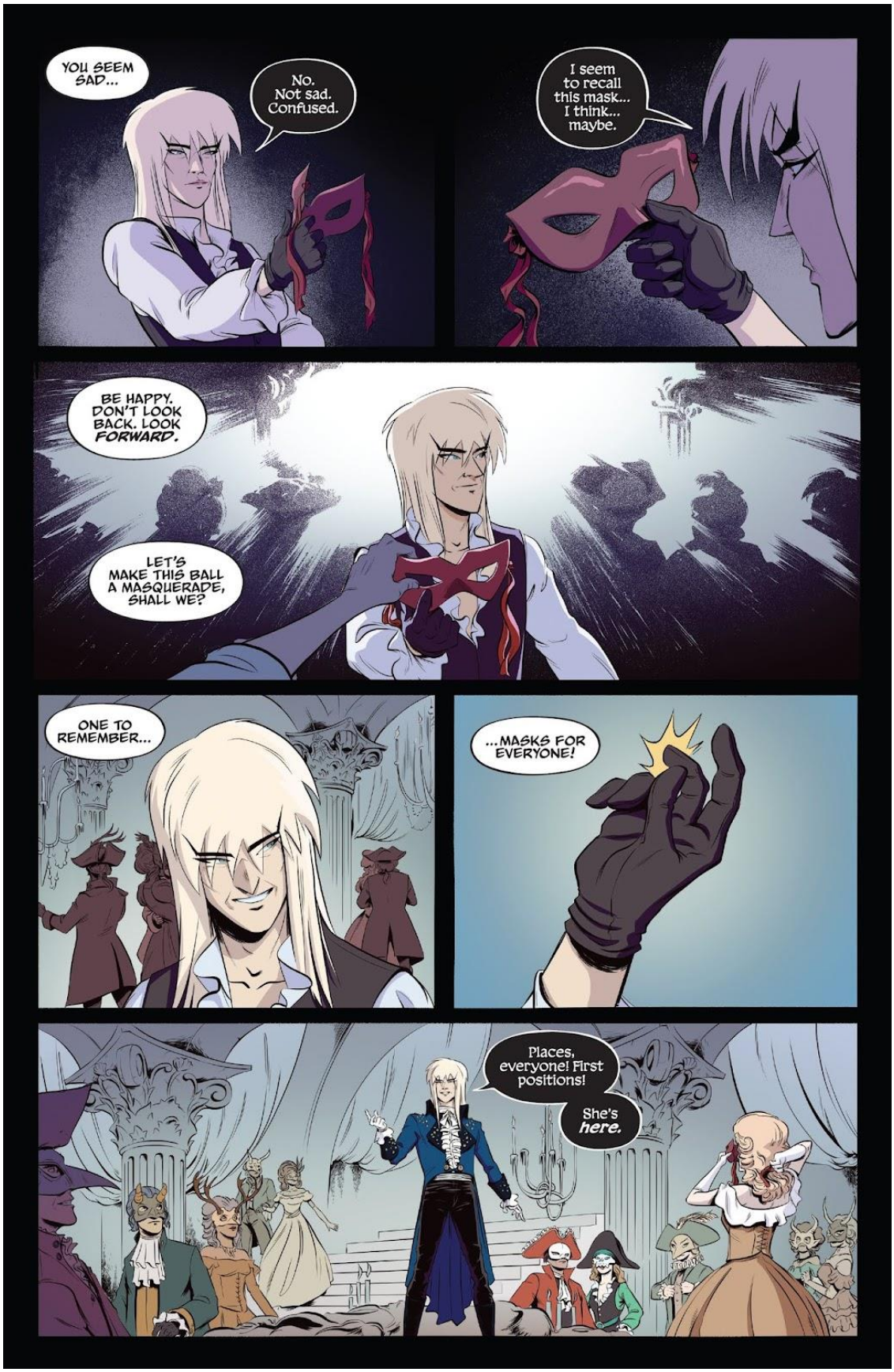
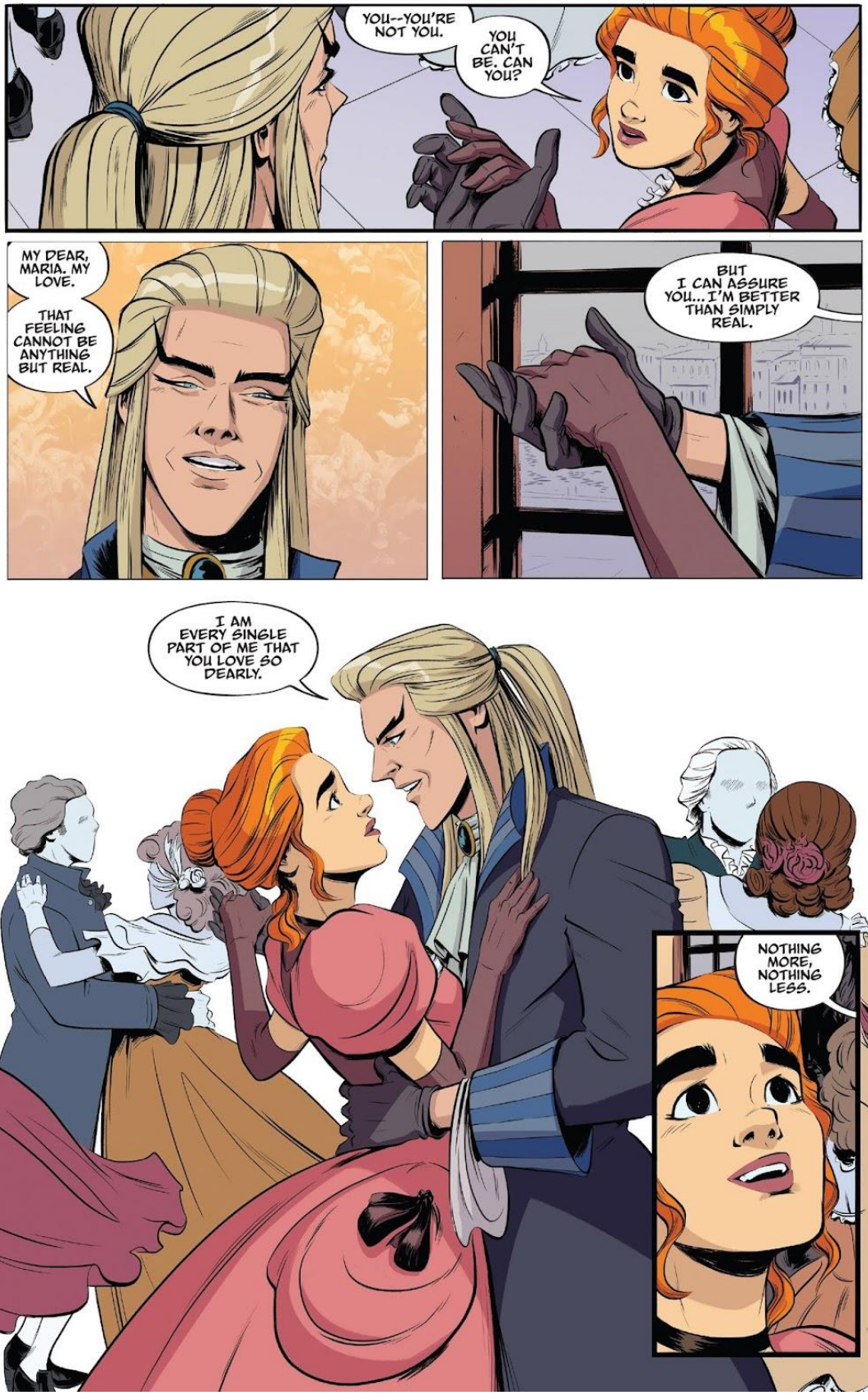

YOU SEEM SAD...
No. Not sad. Confused.
I seem to recall this mask... I think... maybe.
BE HAPPY. DON'T LOOK BACK. LOOK FORWARD.
LET'S MAKE THIS BALL A MASQUERADE, SHALL WE?
ONE TO REMEMBER...
...MASKS FOR EVERYONE!
Places, everyone! First positions!
She's here.

ISN'T IT FUNNY...

"...HOW THINGS REPEAT THEMSELVES?"
THIS FEELS SO REAL...
...BUT CAN IT BE? IS THIS TRUE, ALBERT?

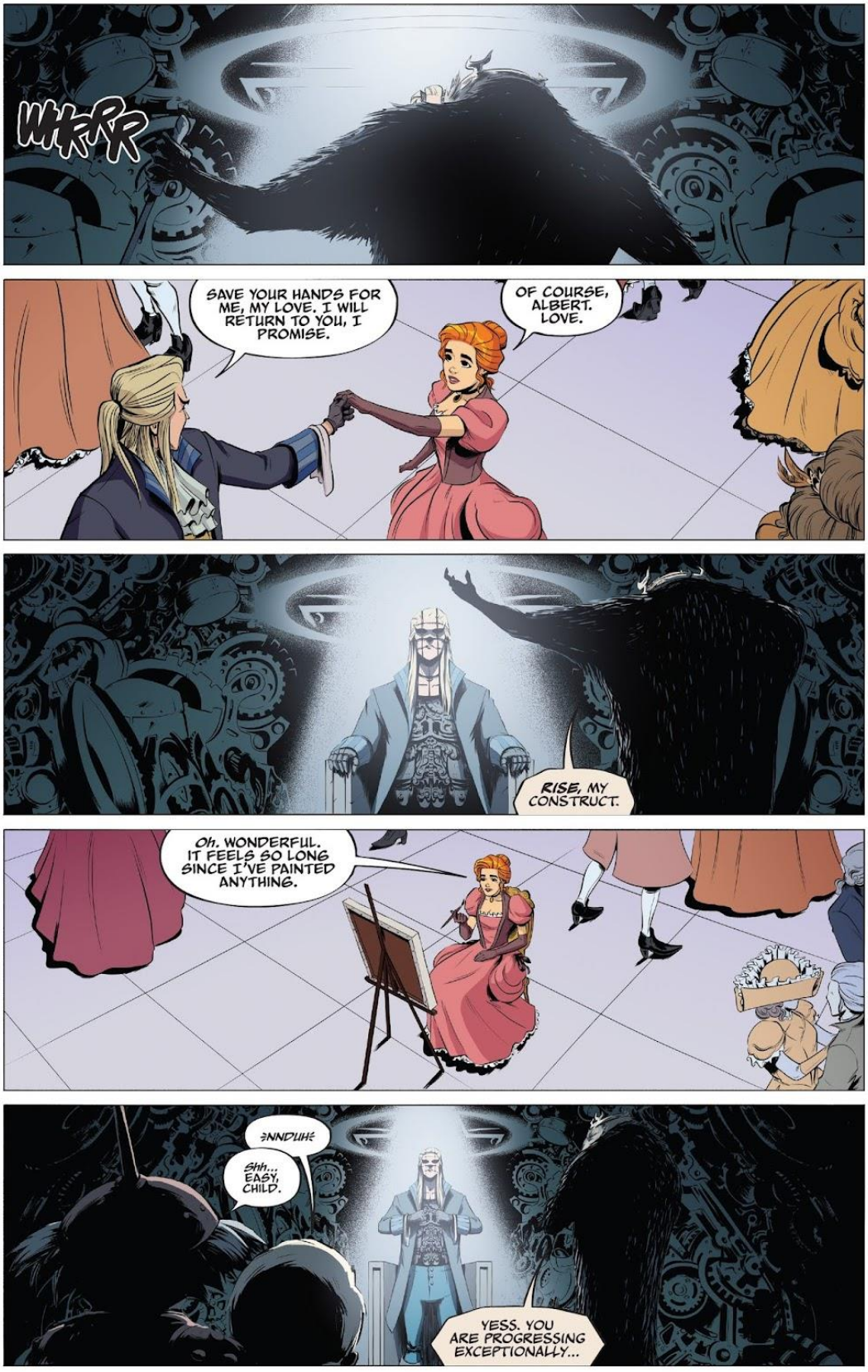

YOU--YOU'RE NOT YOU.
YOU CAN'T BE. CAN YOU?
MY DEAR, MARIA. MY LOVE.
THAT FEELING CANNOT BE ANYTHING BUT REAL.
BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU... I'M BETTER THAN SIMPLY REAL.
I AM EVERY SINGLE PART OF ME THAT YOU LOVE SO DEARLY.
NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.

LOOK AT HER. TRULY LOST IN HER OWN FANTASY.
I PRESUME THIS BRINGS YOU NOT NEARLY AS MUCH PLEASURE AS IT DOES ME.
YOU WILL WATCH, NONETHELESS.
PLEASE... I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.
SHH... DON'T CRY, NOW. IT'S ALL OKAY, LITTLE ONE.
EVERYTHING WILL BE JUST FINE.
EVERYTHING IS FALLING INTO PLACE. FOREGONE CONCLUSIONS. MILD ANNOYANCES.
"REBELLION." ;TT; BARELY AN ARMY TO RELISH IN THEIR DEFEAT.
"THE TRAITORS MARCH INTO THE VERY GUTS OF MY KINGDOM WHERE THEY WILL BEGIN AN ENDLESS ROT."

YOU SERVED YOUR ROLE WELL INDEED, SON.
LEADING POOR MARIA INTO MY TRAP IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT.
NO! I DID NOT MEAN TO BETRAY HER!
INTENT MATTERS NOTHING TO ME, BOY. THE RESULT IS STILL THE SAME.
MARIA... WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER? WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
AH, THAT IS SIMPLE. NOW THAT SHE IS PERFECTLY DISTRACTED, AND WITHOUT THAT DAFT LITTLE CHALK OF HERS...
...SHE DIES.
SHE HAS SERVED A GREATER PURPOSE, JUST AS YOU DID--THE GOBLIN COURT LAYS IN DISARRAY AT MY FEET.
AND AT MY HANDS? MY PLAN COMES TO ITS PRISTINE FRUITION.
THE HUMAN CHILD WILL PROVIDE ME WITH THE STRENGTH I NEED TO DEAL WITH THE GOBLINS MYSELF.
I WILL RULE THIS KINGDOM ALONE. FOREVER. MY ORDERED, EFFICIENT LABYRINTH.

YOU--YOU FOUL, FILTHY, N-NO-GOOD T-TYRANT!
SHE'LL COLLAPSE YOUR REIGN AND LEAVE YOU TO WITHER IN THIS LABYRINTH ALONE!
NNNRRRAARRGH!
=gllk!=
SKARRK
HURRR...
WHERE WAS THAT PASSION YEARS AGO? ALWAYS TOO BUSY DAYDREAMING. PATHETIC.
YOU SEEK TO JOIN THE BANDIT HORDES BEYOND THE LABYRINTH.
THE GREAT HOWLING WASTES, EH?
=TT= FOOL. 'TIS JUST A MYTH. BEYOND DOES NOT EXIST. THERE IS NOTHING OUTSIDE.

THERE IS ONLY HERE. THERE IS ONLY NOW.
SEARCH THE FOOL, SEPTIMUS. STRIP HIM OF EVERYTHING.
WITH PLEASURE. THOUGH FLESH AND TENDON PREFERRED.
ACK! YOU BRUTE! BACK, BEAST!
=FFEH=
AND WHAT IS THIS NONSENSE?
TH-THAT'S MY... BANDITRY FOR BEGINNERS M-MANUAL.
HAH! YOU CAN KEEP IT. FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO YOU...
...BACK IN THE LABYRINTH!


WHRRR
SAVE YOUR HANDS FOR ME, MY LOVE. I WILL RETURN TO YOU, I PROMISE.
OF COURSE, ALBERT. LOVE.
RISE, MY CONSTRUCT.
OH. WONDERFUL. IT FEELS SO LONG SINCE I'VE PAINTED ANYTHING.
SHH... EASY, CHILD.
YESS. YOU ARE PROGRESSING EXCEPTIONALLY...

...BUT THE TIME FOR ESCALATION IS NIGH. KILL HER. KILL MARIA NOW.
YES. I WILL--
≠NNDAH!≠
DAH...
DADA!
IT WILL BE DONE THEN.
SHNK

"BANDITRY FOR BEGINNERS." ⇶PAHH⇷ CURSE THIS LABYRINTH.
⇶SNIFF⇷ THIS BLASTED PLACE SMELLS AS HOW I FEEL.
THE STENCH... ⇶KOFF KAFF⇷ IT GOES ON FOREVER!
THE VILEST REFUSE OF ALL THE LABYRINTH, I RECKON.
LET US OUT! CUT US FREE!
THE REEK BITES OUR NOSTRILS!
CUT US DOWN BEFORE WE WEEP!

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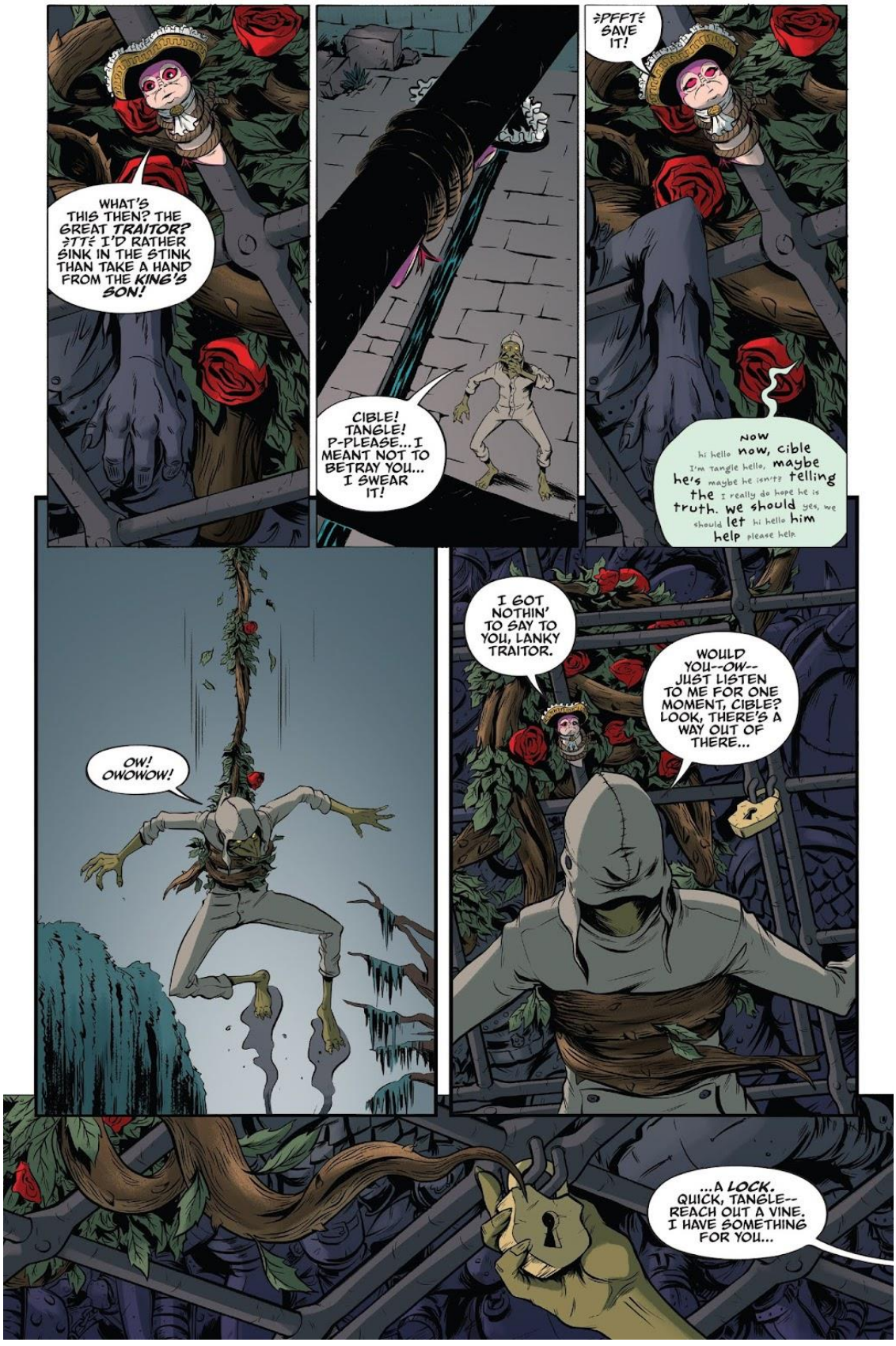
WHAT'S THIS THEN? THE GREAT TRAITOR? ≥TT≤ I'D RATHER SINK IN THE STINK THAN TAKE A HAND FROM THE KING'S SON!
CIBLE! TANGLE! P-PLEASE... I MEANT NOT TO BETRAY YOU... I SWEAR IT!
≥PFFT≤ SAVE IT!
hi hello now, cible I'm tangle hello, maybe he's maybe he isn't? telling the I really do hope he is truth. we should yes, we should let hi hello him help please help
OW! OWOWOW!
I GOT NOTHIN' TO SAY TO YOU, LANKY TRAITOR.
WOULD YOU--OW-- JUST LISTEN TO ME FOR ONE MOMENT, CIBLE? LOOK, THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THERE...
...A LOCK. QUICK, TANGLE-- REACH OUT A VINE. I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU...

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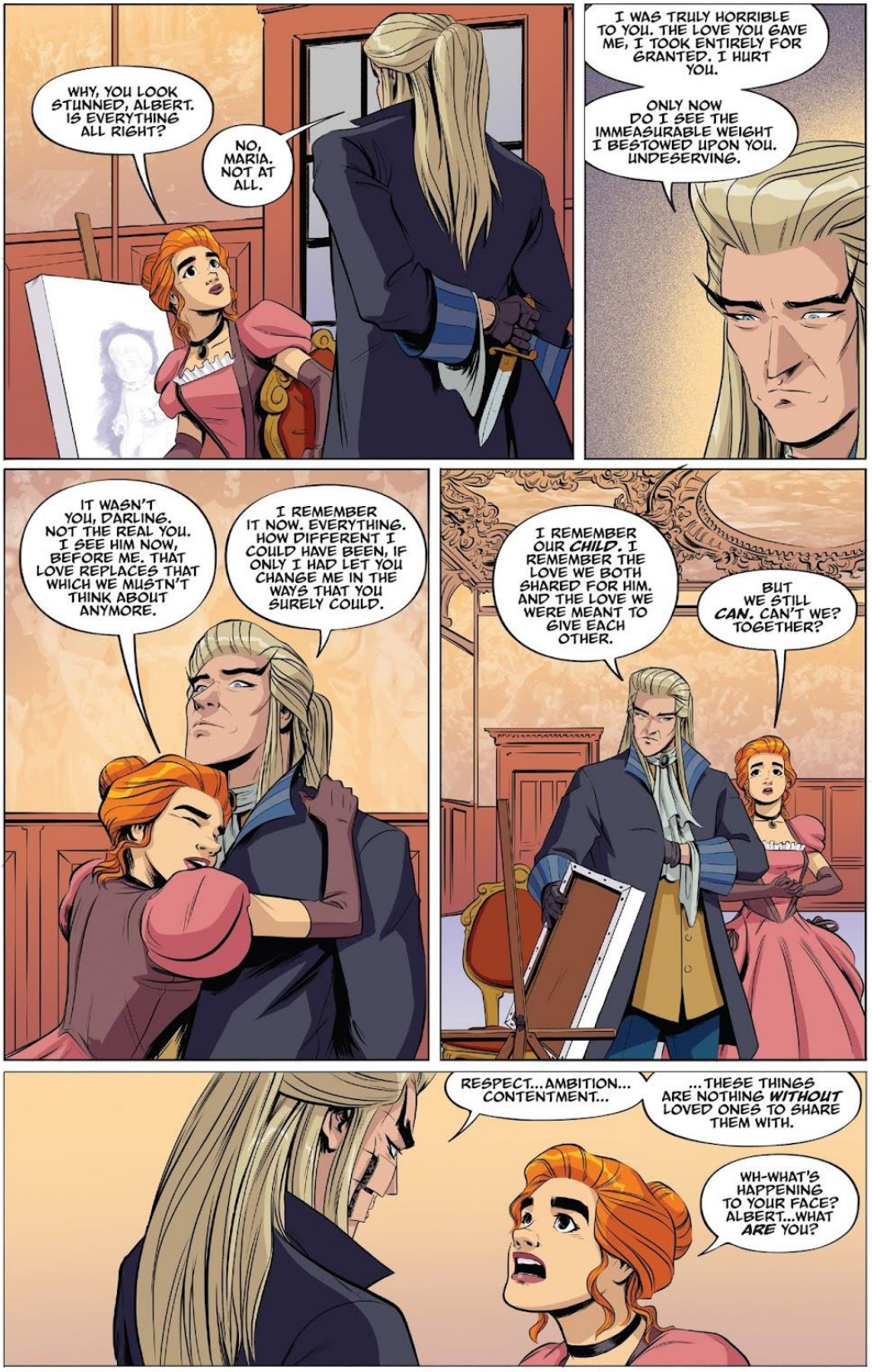
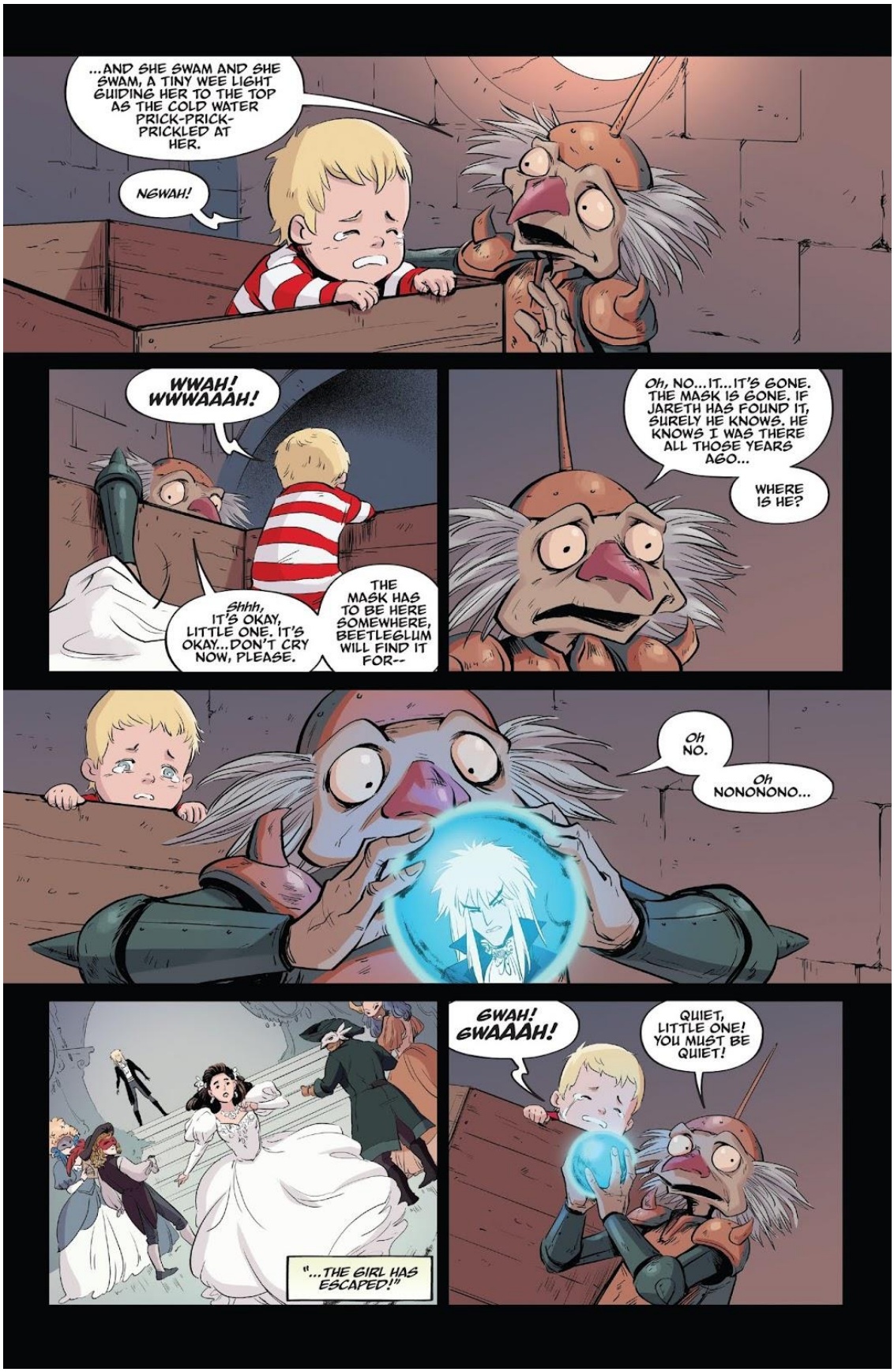

WHY, YOU LOOK STUNNED, ALBERT. IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
NO, MARIA. NOT AT ALL.
I WAS TRULY HORRIBLE TO YOU. THE LOVE YOU GAVE ME, I TOOK ENTIRELY FOR GRANTED. I HURT YOU.
ONLY NOW DO I SEE THE IMMEASURABLE WEIGHT I BESTOWED UPON YOU. UNDESERVING.
IT WASN'T YOU, DARLING. NOT THE REAL YOU. I SEE HIM NOW, BEFORE ME. THAT LOVE REPLACES THAT WHICH WE MUSTN'T THINK ABOUT ANYMORE.
I REMEMBER IT NOW. EVERYTHING. HOW DIFFERENT I COULD HAVE BEEN, IF ONLY I HAD LET YOU CHANGE ME IN THE WAYS THAT YOU SURELY COULD.
I REMEMBER OUR CHILD. I REMEMBER THE LOVE WE BOTH SHARED FOR HIM. AND THE LOVE WE WERE MEANT TO GIVE EACH OTHER.
BUT WE STILL CAN. CAN'T WE? TOGETHER?
RESPECT... AMBITION... CONTENTMENT...
...THESE THINGS ARE NOTHING WITHOUT LOVED ONES TO SHARE THEM WITH.
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOUR FACE? ALBERT...WHAT ARE YOU?

IT ISN'T REAL. NONE OF THIS WAS REAL.
THIS IS A TRAP...ISN'T IT?
TAKE HEED, MY MARIA.
NO. NO, DON'T. PUT YOURSELF BACK TOGETHER. PLEASE.
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE. I DON'T WANT TO FACE WHAT'S OUTSIDE.
MARIA, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME. THE VERY FATE OF THE LABYRINTH ITSELF RESTS ON MY WARNING.
THE OWL KING DOES NOT SEEK AN HEIR TO HIS THRONE.
HE KEEPS THE CHILD AS A MEANS TO STEAL HIS ENERGY...HIS YOUTH.
THE OWL KING MEANS TO USE OUR SON...

...SO THAT HE MAY LIVE AND RULE FOREVER.


...AND SHE SWAM AND SHE SWAM, A TINY WEE LIGHT GUIDING HER TO THE TOP AS THE COLD WATER PRICK-PRICK-PRICKLED AT HER.
NGWAH!
WWAH! WWWAAAH!
Shhh, IT'S OKAY, LITTLE ONE. IT'S OKAY...DON'T CRY NOW, PLEASE.
THE MASK HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE, BEETLEGLUM WILL FIND IT FOR--
Oh, NO...IT...IT'S GONE. THE MASK IS GONE. IF JARETH HAS FOUND IT, SURELY HE KNOWS. HE KNOWS I WAS THERE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...
WHERE IS HE?
Oh NO.
Oh NONONONO...
"...THE GIRL HAS ESCAPED!"
GWAH! GWAAAH!
QUIET, LITTLE ONE! YOU MUST BE QUIET!

"HE WILL NOT BE PLEASED...
"...JUST AS THE OWL KING BEFORE HIM."
GUUUHHH!

MARIA. YOU ESCAPED!
=KOFF=
=KOFF=
=HNG= A DREAM... IT WAS ALL A DREAM.
SKUBBIN, YOU--
CIBLE... TANGLE! YOU'RE ALL HERE!
AYE. GOT A BIT OF AN ARMADA AS WELL, *eh*?
DID YOU... DID *YOU* HELP *THEM*?
I KNOW IT'S JUST ONE LITTLE THING TO FIX WHAT I'VE DONE. BUT I DID.
...
HOW *DID* YOU DO IT, SKUBBIN?
OH, I'VE BEEN DOING A LITTLE READING IS ALL.

I'M NOT STOPPING FOR ANYTHING. I CAN SEE IT.
WE'RE RIGHT BESIDE YA, LOVE.
THE KING THINKS HE CAN TAKE MY SON... I'LL BRING AN ARMY RIGHT TO HIS DOORSTEP.
To be continued...